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Ukraine

Post: Kiev

President Promises Institutional Shake-Up

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

On Dec. 10 the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich announced a shake-up and reduction of the size of the federal government. Overall, he said that he will reduce the number of ministries from 20 to 16 and the executive authorities that “answer to other levels” from 112 to 63.

General Information:

The changes launched by this administrative reform will without doubt affect agriculture but the implementation details are lacking.

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy is now named the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food. The Minister, Mykola Prysyazhnyuk, has his position for the time being. Yet no one knows what functions have been added or taken away from his control. Other ministries which have an agenda important to agriculture are the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and its newly-named minister Mykola Zlochevskiy. The Ministry of Health kept its old name but has a new minister, Zinoviy Mytnyk. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade is now headed by Andriy Klyuyev, who was also appointed the First Vice Prime Minister.

Other yet unknowns are what will become of the authority of the Chief Veterinary Authority and the conflicting and overlapping food safety functions that were held by the State Sanitary Committee and the State Standards Committee.

Evidently President Yanukovich has several reasons to seek changes in government. Reportedly he needs to make cuts to public administration to reduce the size of the federal budget to comply with the conditions the International Monetary Fund has for Ukraine to receive \$15 billion over two and a half years. In addition, President Yanukovich has stated he will fight corruption. The large size of government and conflicting authorities make accountability and transparency much more complicated.